

**LEMMENS et al**  
**U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/008009**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a process for purifying caprolactam, said process comprising (a) subjecting the caprolactam to a hydrogenation by treating the caprolactam with hydrogen in the presence of a heterogeneous nickel containing hydrogenation catalyst, (b) distilling at least a portion of the hydrogenated caprolactam in a distillation column containing nickel in an amount sufficiently low such that  $\Delta\text{PAN}_{\text{Ni}} \leq 3$ , wherein  $\Delta\text{PAN}_{\text{Ni}} = \Delta\text{PAN} - \Delta\text{PAN}_{\text{Ni}=0}$ ,  $\Delta\text{PAN}$  = increase of the PAN number of caprolactam during distilling,  $\Delta\text{PAN}_{\text{Ni}=0}$  increase of the PAN number of caprolactam during distilling under the same conditions in a distillation column free of nickel. Nickel is removed from the caprolactam solution prior to the distillation step.